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New York

President:	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein	(Jordan)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2013/787)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Expression of welcome to new members and of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): As this is the first formal meeting of the Security Council this year, I would like to extend my warm wishes on the occasion of the New Year to all members of the Security Council, the Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole.

In presiding over the first formal meeting of the Council in 2014, I am happy to welcome the other new members, namely, Chad, Chile, Lithuania and Nigeria. We all look forward to their participation in the work of the Council. Their experience and wisdom will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's responsibilities.

I also take this opportunity to express the Council's gratitude to the outgoing members — Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo — for their important contributions to the work of the Council during their terms in 2012 and 2013.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I also take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2013. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing my deep appreciation to Ambassador Araud and his team for successfully conducting the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2013/787)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Léonie Banga-Bothy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad of the Central African Republic.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/787, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic.

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: The situation in the Central African Republic has deteriorated greatly since the most recent United Nations briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.7069). The attacks by the anti-Balaka against Bangui on 5 December triggered a period of heavy unrest in the capital and in the interior of the country. In Bangui alone, more than 750 casualties have been confirmed, and the death toll outside Bangui is likely to be substantial.

According to the latest information, approximately 2.2 million people in the Central African Republic need humanitarian assistance, that is, close to half of the population of the country. One in every two inhabitants of Bangui has sought refuge outside their homes. Their number is estimated at approximately 513,000, of whom 100,000 are at a makeshift camp at the airport.

Killings in Bangui and in the rest of the country continue every day, and the population remains divided along religious affiliation. Access to residential neighbourhoods in Bangui is controlled either by "anti-Christian" or "anti-Muslim" checkpoints, manned by armed civilians. Similarly, localities outside Bangui — such as Bossangoa, Bouar, Bozoum and Paoua, among others — witness atrocities on a daily basis, including direct clashes between Christian and Muslim communities. The danger of escalation into sustained violence along religious lines remains real, with the potential for long-term danger to the country.

Several countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, have repatriated tens of thousands of their citizens, the vast majority of whom are Muslims. That is the first time in the history of the Central African Republic that people have felt obliged to leave the country for fear for their lives on account of their religion.

The quick deployment by the African Union (AU) and France, respectively, of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and Operation Sangaris prevented the situation from degenerating into higher levels of conflict and atrocities. The speed at which both forces attained operational level and their subsequent deployment have changed the security dynamics in Bangui, with visible patrols being undertaken by both forces. As MISCA continues to work towards reaching its authorized strength of 6,000, its presence will be increased outside of Bangui, thus contributing to the improvement of the security situation in the countryside.

We greatly appreciate the role of African States and France in the committing troops to the Central African Republic. I would like, at this stage, to pay tribute to the African and French soldiers who have fallen while performing their duties in the name of peace. The role played by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and by its individual member States to bring stability to the Central African Republic should also be commended.

Currently, we are working with the African Union on the organization of the donors conference that the Council requested to support MISCA. It will be held on 1 February at Addis Ababa on the margins of the AU Summit. We count on the generous support of Council members and other States and organizations.

The events of 5 December dealt a serious blow to the transitional authorities, and to the Head of State of the Transition in particular. The inability of the transitional authorities to curb widespread Séléka human rights abuses and violations against Christian populations over the past year contributed to the gradual transformation of local self-defence groups — the anti-Balaka — into a full-blown rebellion. As a result of its predominantly Muslim composition, Séléka abuses against the Christian populations in the Central African Republic were quickly interpreted as a religious conflict pitting Muslins against Christians. The international commission of inquiry to be established in accordance with resolution 2127 (2013) is a most welcome development that will certainly look into those and other abuses and human rights violations.

On the other hand, the frustration of Muslim communities in the Central African Republic is the result of years of marginalization by successive Governments since the country's independence, more than 50 years ago. For instance, while the Muslim community represents an estimated 20 per cent of the total population of the Central African Republic, no Muslim holidays are observed officially by the country.

I would like to commend the Forum of Religious Leaders for their laudable efforts and sacrifices and for their proactive approach in trying to appease tensions among communities. The Forum brings together the Archbishop, the Imam and a Pastor of Bangui. They need support as a matter of urgency to be able to carry on with their efforts.

ECCAS Heads of State have proposed an inclusive national conference, which should serve as a forum for all the national actors to share their frustrations, identify the country's challenges and, hopefully, agree on the way forward, including preparing for elections and determining a common set of priorities for the post-transition period.

Concerning the elections, some progress was made with the adoption of a new electoral code and the swearing in of the seven-member National Electoral Authority, which brings together representatives of civil society, the political parties and the Government. The United Nations mission on the ground — the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic — is providing technical and logistics support to the National Electoral Authority. We will soon deploy an electoral needs assessment mission. Conditions conducive to holding elections, however, remain elusive. The systematic looting of all local administrations and the destruction by the ex-Séléka of all types of civil national registries means that reconstituting the voters lists would require a massive effort.

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of all armed groups should constitute one of the top priorities. We must learn from our past experiences in the Central African Republic and from the several DDR programmes carried out there. We must ensure that the conditions conducive to such an exercise are present, including the requisite amount of funding.

A DDR process implemented in accordance with internationally accepted standards is critical. It will pave the way for holistic security sector reforms and contribute to laying the foundations for lasting peace.

Allow me now to say a few words about the humanitarian situation, which has deteriorated at an alarming rate. All Central Africans have been affected by the crisis. As I mentioned at the outset, nearly half of the population needs humanitarian assistance. Persistent violence has forced one fifth of the population to flee their homes. That number has more than doubled since 5 December. More than 935,000 people are now sleeping outside or in temporary spaces. In Bangui, half of the population has sought refuge at one of 55 sites for internally displaced persons. More than 100,000 people are seeking security at the airport alone. Those displaced urgently need protection and shelter, as well as access to water, health care, food, basic supplies and sanitation and hygiene services.

Non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and staff of United Nations humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes have remained in the Central African Republic to deliver assistance in what is a very dangerous and unpredictable environment. The increase in violence last month has exacerbated the needs. Working closely with civil society and religious leaders from all communities, NGOs and United Nations staff are tirelessly providing medical care and delivering supplies to hospitals, health centres and dispensaries at internally displaced person sites.

On 11 December, the United Nations activated a system-wide level 3 emergency response. That allows us to send our most experienced and skilful staff, release emergency funds and mobilize relief supplies and pipelines. Since then, a senior humanitarian coordinator at the level of Assistant Secretary-General has been deployed to strengthen the humanitarian response in the country. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos allocated $10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to support relief efforts in the Central African Republic. United Nations agencies have also ramped up their responses.

Despite the tremendous efforts of humanitarians on the ground, needs continue to outpace the response. Violence and insecurity have forced many to flee into forests and out of reach of aid. A lack of funding has also constrained the response and threatens to further inhibit humanitarian operations unless funding is urgently received. For example, without additional contributions, the World Food Programme food pipeline for the Central African Republic will be 90 per cent depleted in February.

The humanitarian country team has developed a 100-day plan for priority humanitarian action, which is part of the broader 2014 response strategy. The plan requires $152 million to rapidly scale up life-saving assistance and protection. Last year's humanitarian appeal for the Central African Republic was one of the most underfunded appeals globally, and the competing needs worldwide are by no means less burdensome this year.

I cannot conclude my remarks without making reference to protection issues, notably those affecting women and children, who always bear the brunt in conflict situations. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, and a representative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict conducted a joint assessment mission to the Central African Republic from 17 to 21 December. The joint mission called for urgent action to protect civilians, in particular women and children, and to prevent the country from plunging into full-scale sectarian conflict. The United Nations has also undertaken missions to places such as Bria, Bouar, Paoua, Bossangoa and Bambari. Through a concerted effort in the Central African Republic, we are finalizing support packages for the communities there. The same is being done for children in armed conflict.

Women and children constitute the most vulnerable group in society, and are therefore disproportionally affected by the dire humanitarian situation. Women and peace and security questions, as outlined in the seminal resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent related resolutions, have always guided our actions in the search for solutions in the Central Africa Republic. I am pleased to see that the donor community is paying increased attention to the Central Africa Republic, which, we hope, will result in desperately needed additional resources.

The violence and the atrocities in the Central Africa Republic must stop. Those in positions of authority or influence must do more to end violence and halt grave

violations against civilians, including children. Attacks against humanitarian personnel and the use of civilian spaces such as schools and hospitals for military purposes must also end. I ask the Council to again remind all parties to the conflict of their responsibilities under international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure that all those responsible for violations are held to account.

There is a very real risk that the crisis could spread beyond the country's borders and further destabilize the region. The United Nations, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central Africa Republic, will continue to do its best to prevent the situation in the Central Africa Republic from unravelling further and human rights abuses and violations from reaching unthinkable levels; ensure humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable; and return the country to constitutional order. Here at Headquarters, the Deputy Secretary-General regularly chairs a senior action group to consider how best to respond to the multifaceted crisis in the Central Africa Republic. This is the first case for the Secretary-General's new Rights Upfront agenda.

In conclusion, let me note that it is our collective responsibility to act now, before it is too late.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like, at the start of the new year, to wish all members of the Security Council the best of health and greatest success in their work. I also take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt and warm congratulations to your country, Sir, upon its election to the Council and upon your assumption of the presidency. My delegation assures you of its support and we wish you the greatest of success.

I would like to highly commend Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France and outgoing President of the Council, for the excellent work achieved under his leadership, the results of which are more than clear.

My delegation is delighted to be serving on the Security Council as a non-permanent member. We take this opportunity to thank all of those who, by voting for us, contributed to our successful election. Likewise, we warmly congratulate all newly elected members, that is, Nigeria, Chile, Jordan and Lithuania. My delegation pledges to spare no effort in contributing to the smooth functioning of the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs.

I would also like to thank and congratulate Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his briefing, which indeed covered almost everything that I had wanted to say.

Chad is profoundly concerned at the situation in the Central Africa Republic, in particular at the scale of the crisis in the country and the and ever-more dangerous developments we continue to see — all in spite of the robust mandate entrusted to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and other forces involved there through resolution 2127 (2013), adopted on 5 December 2013. While the situation seems to be showing the early signs of improvement in certain areas, the violent attacks being committed against the civilian population in general and foreign nationals in particular have not decreased at all. On the contrary, the situation continues to be characterized by widespread insecurity, massacres, rape and acts of brutality that further expose civilian populations already displaced en masse into makeshift camps, as well as by the massive wholesale exodus of foreign nationals to their countries of origin, including Chadians, Cameroonians, Senegalese, Malians and many others.

Chad deplores the fact that the situation has claimed scores of dead and hundreds of missing persons among its nationals, and we continue to repatriate our nationals via charter flights and over-land transport. Like the nationals of other countries, Chadians have been dispossessed of their possessions and had their homes ransacked. Such hatred against all communities of foreign origin due to their belonging to a particular religion cannot be justified under any pretext and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Nonetheless, the remarkable efforts being deployed by MISCA and the French forces to accomplish their mission, under what are extremely difficult and complex conditions, must be commended. In that regard, Chad welcomes the ongoing commitment of the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and France to achieve greater coordination of the efforts under way to help the Central African Republic to emerge definitively from the recurrent cycle of violence and political crisis. Against that backdrop,

Chad, together with other countries of Central Africa, is and will remain committed, as it has been since 1994, to supporting joint efforts to re-establish peace and stability in the Central African Republic. We will not allow ourselves to be distracted by the insidious media campaign craftily organized by power-hungry groups seeking to distort international public opinion by blurring the lines between Séléka and Muslims and Muslims and Chadians, without the slightest proof.

Like the countries of the Central Africa region, Chad is aware of the consequences of the crisis on its own security and stability and on the subregional economic integration process. The number of extraordinary ECCAS summits held on the subject of the Central African Republic since the outbreak of the crisis, the signing of the Libreville Global Peace Agreement, the implementation of the N'Djamena road map and the strengthening of the former Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic, which became MISCA on 19 December 2013 with additional contingents, are, among other things, tangible elements that reflect the determination and the degree of ECCAS's mobilization in its search for a solution to the crisis.

In same vein, ECCAS is preparing to hold another extraordinary summit in N'Djamena on 9 January with the participation of all international partners to address the situation in Central African Republic, including the lack of progress in the security and political fronts despite the deployment of MISCA and the French forces. It is obvious that the implementation of the recommended solutions lies first and foremost with the Central African political stakeholders. Without their robust and responsible involvement, it will be difficult to put an end to the cycle of violence and to move the political process forward.

In this war for power, where religion is deliberately exploited for political purposes and conducted by proxy militias, it is important that the Central African political class emerge from its lethargy and play its full role in order to save the country. To do so, MISCA and the other forces deployed in Central African Republic should continue their mission of the disarmament and cantonment of ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka to pacify the country and allow for the holding of free and transparent elections in a peaceful environment, in accordance with the Libreville Agreement and the N'Djamena road map.

In that light, Chad calls for greater mobilization by the entire international community, in particular the United Nations, the European Union and the Central African Republic's bilateral partners, to support the actions already undertaken on the ground by the African Union, ECCAS and France. Such a mobilization must take into account the need for a holistic approach supported by concurrent actions and based on the humanitarian situation on the ground, the protection of civilians, disarmament, the political transition process, the strengthening of administration and justice, national reconciliation and the establishment of a truly national army, which is the only guarantee of peace and stability in the country.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to Minister for Foreign Affairs Banga-Bothy of the Central African Republic.

Ms. Banga-Bothy (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January 2014. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor for his personal involvement in the process aimed at resolving the crisis in the Central African Republic. I would also like to express my best wishes for a happy new year to all Security Council members.

In his statement to the General Assembly on 26 September 2013, the Transitional Prime Minister of Central African Republic, His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Tiangaye, sounded the alarm regarding the possible chaos that could descend on the Central African Republic given the already extreme deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the country at that time (see A/68/PV.13). Given that horrifying prospect and the imminent sectarian war brewing among the beleaguered population, the prompt response of the international community — with the adoption of resolution 2121 (2013), which was to pave the way for international action, the re-establishment of peace and the provision of assistance to people at the mercy of armed groups and militias of all types — provided a glimmer of hope to the Central African Republic.

Unfortunately, as the Security Council was preparing to adopt resolution 2127 (2013), on 5 December 2013, the enemies of the Central African people, who perceived that resolution authorizing the application of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations as a threat to their bloody, diabolical

undertaking, chose to make themselves heard with weapons and attacked Bangui at dawn, causing the deaths of several hundred people. Although a robust reaction by defence and security forces was able to halt the attackers and limit the damage inflicted by the 5 December attack, the overall deterioration in the security situation, the resumption of violence and the subsequent senseless killing considerably worsened the humanitarian situation in the capital.

Like those who have spoken before me, I too can confirm that 300,000 people have had to flee their homes for camps because of the violence of those armed groups. Those men, women and children are living in dire conditions and are exposed to all sorts of violence, disease and famine. It appears that there is a real risk of large-scale outbreaks of infectious diseases, in particular cholera. For instance, the fact that people have huddled on the grounds of the Bangui M'Poko International Airport means that they are not only exposed to the scourges I have just mentioned, but also that their very security is threatened — as are airport facilities themselves.

Foreign persons of the Muslim faith have not been spared either. We would like to take this opportunity to express the official apologies of the Central African Republic to the States whose nationals have been submitted to abuse during these events.

Despite the efforts of non-governmental and humanitarian organizations and the agencies of the United Nations to provide people with the necessary assistance, the situation is only deteriorating further. Attention is entirely focused on Bangui, the scene of the most recent violence. The rest of the people in the hinterlands appear to be left to their sad fate. This shows the scope and seriousness of the situation, which requires additional efforts on the part of the international community.

Considerable efforts have been deployed on the security front, with a call for a cessation of hostilities and the beginning of negotiations with anti-Balaka self-defence groups — as evidenced repeatedly by our Head of State in extending the hand of friendship in the course of his addresses to the nation. Unfortunately, those irregular and unidentified forces have not shown any desire to engage in negotiations with the Government. Instead, they have continued to carry out senseless attacks against civilians, the bases of ex-Séléka elements and even contingents of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA).

Given the situation, religious authorities, both Christian and Muslim, have undertaken commendable efforts to try to bring together the leaders of the various communities in order to pursue a policy of national reconciliation. It must be acknowledged, however, that such work will be long-term in nature and require both patience and determination.

Moreover, with respect to the transitional bodies, it should be noted that all of the bodies provided for under the Transitional Charter have been established. The exception in that regard is the High Council for Communication, whose process is under way. The composition of the National Electoral Authority has just been voted upon, and that institution will soon become operational if the security situation in the country becomes stable.

The transitional authorities have also reaffirmed their commitment not to stand in the elections. They want the elections to be credible and transparent so as to lead to a final end to the repeated crises in the Central African Republic. That is why the elections must not be organized hastily, but rather on the basis of regular procedures, going through the various stages and in accordance with the various agreements signed in the context of the transition in the Central African Republic.

With regard to security, as I have already mentioned, the 5 December attack was a fatal blow to the efforts carried out until then. Despite the helpful actions of the French Operation Sangaris to initiate the disarmament of armed groups and the cantonment of most Séléka elements, the anti-Balaka militia and some elements answering to ex-Séléka leaders continue to sow terror in the various neighborhoods of Bangui, thereby preventing those who have sought refuge in the sites for displaced people to return to their homes and resume their normal lives.

Since the transition from the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) to MISCA on 19 November, a remarkable job has been done with the support of Operation Sangaris in the field. This has given some hope for the re-establishment of peace and security in the Central African Republic. The Mission, which is carried out pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), should in our view be accompanied by the action of the transitional

authorities themselves, which will require the Central African defence and security forces to work side by side with those of the international community to bring peace to the country.

As that noble task is carried out, we regret the loss of life of brave French soldiers in the context of Operation Sagaris and of Congolese and Chadian soldiers in the context of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic. Those men gave their lives to bring peace to the Central African Republic. We pay them a well-deserved tribute on behalf of the Head of State of the Transitional Government and of the people of the Central African Republic. I wish to pay my respects to the families of the disappeared and to their Goverments and countrymen.

Given the extreme nature of the crisis in the Central African Republic and the considerable means that will be necessary to end it, we ask the international community to increase the financial and logistic resources going to the forces on the ground in the Central African Republic. As provided for in resolution 2127 (2013), a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the current situation in the Central African Republic could, should conditions allow, provide considerable support for the efforts undertaken by the African Union, France and the other countries that are providing troops or resources.

The Central African Republic Government commends the African Union's commitment to increasing the number of MISCA personnel to 10,000 men within six months. I trust that, at this strength, MISCA will be able to cover the entire country of the Central African Republic and carry out its mission adequately. The assessment of MISCA's performance in this period will make it possible, if necessary, to adjust the approach and take appropriate action.

We also call for the strengthening of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General playing an extremely important role in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; in human rights and peacebuilding; and in the forthcoming organization of the elections in the near future.

While it is evident that, despite the extreme gravity of the situation in the Central African Republic, the people have bravely survived the chaos to date, it is to a large extent thanks to the tireless international solidarity provided to our people during the course of three decades of political and military violence. I thank all African States that have provided additional troops to MISCA in support of endeavours to re-establish peace and security in my country. I call for the timely organization of the donors conference desired not just by the African Union, but also by the authorities of the Central African Republic.

My thanks also go to the European Union and the United States of America for providing financial and logistical support and equipment to the stabilization efforts in the Central African Union.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

Mr. António (*spoke in French*): I should like to start by wishing Council members a very happy new year. I join the President in welcoming Her Excellency Ms. Léonie Banga-Bothy Mbazoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad of the Central African Republic.

I would also like to congratulate the delegation of Jordan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council. I take this opportunity to thank your predecessor, Mr. President, as you just did, the delegation of France, for its presidency of the Security Council during December 2013.

I would also like to congratulate the other new members of the Security Council: Chad, Chile, Lithuania and Nigeria. I would like to especially congratulate the two African delegations that have joined the Council — Chad and Nigeria — whose work, alongside that of Rwanda, will raise the voice of Africa within the framework of the Security Council.

I thank Ambassador Feltman for his very comprehensive briefing, which painted a very detailed picture of the situation on the ground and the steps that need to be taken.

On behalf of the African Union Commission, I would like to thank the Council for its invitation and for the opportunity afforded to the African Union to address this body on the situation in the Central African Republic. This meeting clearly reflects the Security Council's focused attention to the especially alarming developments that continue to unfold in that country.

As Council members know, on 19 July 2013 the Peace and Security Council of the African Union authorized the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and granted it a clear mandate to protect the civilian population and stabilize the security situation. The Peace and Security Council had asked the Security Council to support the deployment of MISCA and to take the measures needed to that effect. In that regard, I welcome the fact that, in its resolutions 2121 (2013) and 2127 (2013), the Council has supported and authorized the deployment of MISCA. That is a further illustration of the close partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

On 19 December 2013, MISCA took over from the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). That transition was the result of intense consultations with the ECCAS, within the African Peace and Security Framework. I would like once again to express the appreciation of the African Union to ECCAS and MICOPAX for their work under particularly difficult conditions. It goes without saying that the cooperation between the African Union and ECCAS continues, given that the situation requires ongoing and active regional involvement and the mobilization of all of Africa's energy. As soon as it assumed authority, MISCA began working to build on the achievements attained by MICOPAX and effectively implement its mandate, guided by the concept of operations adopted in agreement with ECCAS.

I should like to underscore that MISCA's original plan was severely hindered by the attacks perpetrated on 5 December 2013 against Government forces by initially unidentified armed groups that were later determined to be of the so-called anti-Balaka group. Following those bloody events and through extended consultations between Heads of State of the region and African Union partners, the Peace and Security Council decided on 13 December 2013 to authorize an increase in the force strength of MISCA of up to 6,000 uniformed personnel, depending on developments in the situation on the ground. Clearly, like the French Operation Sangaris, MISCA embarked on its work in a particularly difficult environment, characterized by clashes between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka forces, and sometimes between individuals.

This violence is all the more destabilizing and difficult to contain because it has assumed on a sectarian and religious character. Heinous crimes have been committed. Lynchings, summary executions, looting and destruction of property have increased. Tens of thousands of people have had to flee their homes to seek refuge in other areas of the city of Bangui considered safer, primarily the area surrounding the airport.

Since its inception, MISCA has had to take measures to address this situation. The reinforcement of ground personnel following the arrival of the Burundian contingent helped to contain the tide of violence and respond as best it could to the many demands on the MISCA forces — at times for escorts, at others to hold fixed points or secure commercial and public buildings. Positioned in various sites in the city of Bangui, MISCA troops deployed in the capital had initially held fixed points, while patrols were left to the elements of the Operation Sangaris, which were more mobile and equipped with adequate means of communication.

Since then, military and police forces have adopted new plans for dividing the territory in order to attain an adequate grip over Bangui and the rest of Central African territory. The imminent deployment of the Rwandan contingent and the provision of communication, mobility and protection equipment should allow MISCA to accelerate its securing of Bangui and embark on the second phase of deployment pursuant to its concept of operations.

During their working visit to Bangui on 28 December 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the Republic of Congo, and the African Union Peace and Security Commissioner were encouraged by the steps taken by MISCA commanders to redeploy its forces and called for the stigmatization of any contingents within MISCA to be avoided. The Ministers and the Commissioner also stressed the need for continued international support to facilitate the implementation of MISCA's mandate as authorized by resolution 2127 (2013). I also wish to stress that the commanders of MISCA and Operation Sangaris continue to work in coordination and collaboration as they conduct operations to secure the city of Bangui. The calm reported in recent days is the result of the joint action of the two forces.

MISCA is committed to working closely with the various leaders within the Central African Republic.

At the political level, this means encouraging the transitional authorities to work closely together, accelerate the timetable for transition, and launch the necessary process of reconciliation among the various national communities. It also means encouraging them to do what is necessary for the State to resume the effective provision of public services, including effective State control over income sources and the transparent management of public finances.

At a more operational level, MISCA seeks to promote, as far as possible, the return to normal life. From this point of view, I note that on 4 January the head of MISCA held a meeting with the Mayor of Bangui, district and neighbourhoods leaders from Bangui, and representatives of humanitarian agencies with a view to agreeing with them on practical measures to meet the security needs of the population and facilitate the work of the military and the police. A committee was established to monitor the implementation of the measures agreed. One of the immediate results expected is the return of displaced populations, especially those located around the Bangui airport, to their homes.

In the coming days, MISCA will make the most of the current relative calm to step up its implementation of plans to divide and organize Bangui and the rest of Central African territory by sector; to develop strategies to support the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security and defence sector reform; and to consider how to support the electoral process, in coordination with other stakeholders.

The Commission is preparing to deploy an initial group of human rights observers to support MISCA in this area, which is critical to the restoration of justice, public order and State authority. The transitional authorities, including the Prime Minister, have been urged to step up the launch of the work of the judiciary. Similarly, following the discovery in Bangui on 25 December 2013 of a mass grave containing several bodies, a request was sent to the transitional authorities for the public prosecutor to initiate the necessary procedures and conduct adequate investigations into these events.

Similarly, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and MISCA Commander, General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko, maintains close collaboration with other members of the international community in Bangui, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, and the representatives of France, the United States of America and the European Union in order to facilitate coordinated international action on the ground.

It goes without saying that MISCA is operating under difficult conditions. Indeed, the Mission still faces several challenges, linked in particular to the lack of infrastructure in the country, which has made its tasks even more complex, hindered manoeuvres and considerably increased the cost, as well as to the inadequacy of air and land mobility and communications assets.

Let me reiterate here the gratitude of the African Union to the international partners that have been supporting MISCA. I would like to highlight the European Union and the United States, as well as France, with which we are working on the ground. Additional support, both logistical and financial, is still required from the international community. We hope that the donor conference to be held in Addis Ababa on 1 February will be an opportunity for Member States and our partners alike to show their support for MISCA.

We are confident that MISCA can meet the challenges before it. The determination of the African Union is total and the commitment of troop-contributing countries unflinching. MISCA personnel are performing their duties with dedication and a great sense of sacrifice, aware that they are participating in a duty-bound act of African solidarity with a brotherly country and people in distress. As fragile as they may be, the first results on the ground strengthen our conviction that the established goals will be met — just as the African Union has proved to be the case in other theatres of operations, in particular in Somalia — with the extremely valuable support of the United Nations and other international partners.

We believe that the priority for the international community, and of the United Nations in particular, should be to support MISCA so that the Mission can create the minimal conditions for the deployment of a United Nations operation in due course. While the efforts of the African Union and its peace and security structures must also be strengthened, it is also true that a lasting solution to the continent's crises will be possible only by strengthening African capacities. Regardless of their good intentions, our partners will

not always be able to assume the burden of peacekeeping on the continent. In our view, any other approach risks undermining the efforts that MISCA is currently undertaking, with the support of Operation Sangaris, by generating uncertainty, which would undermine the gains already made and complicate the situation on the ground. Such a situation would make any deployment of a United Nations operation more difficult. We therefore expect the Security Council to take this opportunity to strongly reiterate, in line with its previous resolutions, its support for MISCA and the need for all involved to facilitate the implementation of its mandate.

Beyond renewed support for MISCA, the international community, including the United Nations, must redouble its efforts to support the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, security sector reform and the electoral process. Financial assistance is also urgently needed to facilitate a relaunching of economic activity. Of course, I would not want to fail to mention the extremely worrisome humanitarian situation that prevails on the ground. The international community's response to that situation should be much more robust. It is through such concrete actions to respond to the needs on the ground that the international community can usefully contribute to the ongoing work and success of MISCA, which is working on behalf of not only the African Union but also the international community as a whole.

The response to the current crisis is obviously not taking place only on the military and security fronts; in fact, it is fundamentally political in nature. From that point of view, the commitment of the transitional authorities is essential. It is important that they fully shoulder their responsibilities. The efforts they will undertake in the effective conduct of the transition and the contribution they make to MISCA will be crucial to the success of our efforts. The initiatives undertaken by ECCAS, particularly through its acting chairman and the chairman of its committee monitoring the situation in the Central African Republic, namely, Their Excellencies President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad and President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, should be strongly supported.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7093

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7093rd meeting

Friday, 10 January 2014, 5.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein	(Jordan)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-20456 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Iraq to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

(*spoke in English*)

"The Security Council deplores in the strongest terms the recent events in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar province in Iraq. The Security Council condemns the attacks that are being perpetrated by Al-Qaida affiliate, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), against the people of Iraq in an attempt to destabilize the country and region. The Security Council recognizes that Iraqi security forces, local police and tribes in Anbar province are showing great courage as they fight to defeat ISIL in their cities.

"The Security Council urges the people of Iraq, including Iraqi tribes, local leaders and Iraqi security forces in Anbar province, to continue, expand and strengthen their cooperation against violence and terror, and it stresses the critical importance of continued national dialogue and unity. The Security Council welcomes comments from Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani welcoming internally displaced residents of Anbar to Najaf and Karbala, as well as the commitment of a number of communities — Sunni, Shia and Kurd — to meet the needs of the displaced.

"The Security Council expresses its strong support for the continued efforts of the Iraqi Government to help meet the security needs of the entire population of Iraq. In this regard, the Security Council acknowledges the efforts of the Iraqi security forces and Iraqi local police, whose members are also being targeted and killed in ongoing attacks by terrorists. The Security Council welcomes the commitment of the Government of Iraq in the protection of the civilian population in Fallujah and elsewhere and to the provision of humanitarian relief, and encourages the Government of Iraq to continue working with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and humanitarian agencies to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief. The Security Council expresses concern about the impact of the violence on civilians and encourages the safe passage of civilians trapped in conflict areas, as well as the safe return of internally displaced persons as conditions allow.

"The Security Council stresses the critical importance of continued national dialogue and unity, an inclusive political process, the holding of free and fair elections in April 2014, and the right to peaceful protest as guaranteed under the Iraqi Constitution. The Security Council believes that this is vital to underpin a unified national stance against terrorism and to ensure Iraq's long-term security.

"The Security Council reaffirms the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with Iraqi authorities in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that ISIL is subject to the arms embargo and assets freeze imposed by Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 2083 (2012) and underlines the importance of prompt and effective implementation of these measures.

"The Security Council reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The Security Council reminds States that they must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial

integrity of Iraq. The Security Council reiterates that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards peace, democracy and reconstruction in Iraq, which is supported by the people and the Government of Iraq and the international community."

(*spoke in Arabic*)

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2014/1.

I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and the friendly Kingdom of Jordan on your assumption of the Arab seat on the Council and your presidency of the Council for this month. I would also like to congratulate Lithuania, Nigeria, Chad and Chile on having been elected as members of the Council and wish them every success in their task. Iraq is fully prepared to cooperate with all of them. I would also like to congratulate the entire membership of the Security Council and wish them a very happy new year in 2014.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Council for the presidential statement it has just adopted (S/PRST/2014/1) in support of Iraq's efforts in combating terrorism in the form of Al-Qaida elements in Iraq. My Government highly appreciates the full support of the entire membership of the Security Council for the efforts of the Iraqi Government, its armed forces, the local police and the sons and daughters of the tribes of Anbar, and in particular Fallujah, who have stood fast and united against Al-Qaida and its elements in order to save Fallujah and Anbar at this time.

Terrorism is an international scourge that we should all work to eliminate. This will happen only with the full cooperation of all States and international organizations, the implementation of binding resolutions, and coherent, good faith efforts to protect international peace and security. The defeat of Al-Qaida and the remnants of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant marks the start of their defeat in the other States of the region. International efforts should be coordinated with a view to achieving that noble objective.

Today all elements, factions and tribes of Iraq have stood as one united front against terrorism throughout the country with a view to restoring Anbar and Fallujah to their inhabitants. I offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the brave Iraqi soldiers, police personnel and tribal men and women who have all played an extremely important role in combating terrorism and containing and putting an end to the control of their cities by Al-Qaida elements.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7094

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7094th meeting

Monday, 13 January 2014, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein	(Jordan)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mr. Sarki
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2013/757)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (S/2013/773)

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14-20508 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2013/757)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (S/2013/773)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mrs. Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mrs. Robinson, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Kinshasa.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/757, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/773, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kobler.

Mr. Kobler: I would like to express, at the outset, my sincere congratulations to Jordan for taking up the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. At the same time, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the new members of the Security Council and, to those who celebrate the birthday of the Prophet, my deepest respects today.

(*spoke in French*)

It was just a month ago that I briefed the Security Council on the most recent political and military developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which demonstrates the Council's deep interest in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Today I will share with the Council an overview of the latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the outlook for 2014.

Previously, I spoke in the future tense, but now I can speak in the present and even the past tense. The Kampala dialogue has been concluded in Nairobi. The Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, supported by the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, are conducting operations directed against the armed groups. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has adopted its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan and, at this very moment, MONUSCO is being fully deployed towards the east to bolster its civil presence in the conflict-affected areas. Naturally, much remains to be done, but there can be no doubt that we are making progress.

(*spoke in English*)

Nevertheless, we have to add a word of caution here. After the security incidents of 30 December, the spirit of optimism following the conclusion of the national dialogue, the defeat of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23) and President Kabila's tour of the east, have given way somewhat to a sense of fragility. It is therefore more important than ever that we stay committed to preventing a rollback of what has been achieved.

The year 2013 was marked by three significant milestones: the signature of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement; the adoption of resolution 2098 (2013), which created the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, with a robust mandate; and the unwavering international cohesion exemplified by the team of Special Envoys.

Allow me to highlight the relentless efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mary Robinson. Together with the Special Envoys of the African Union, the European Union and the United States, she has created a positive dynamic and brought together all the key stakeholders towards open and continuous dialogue for durable peace and sustainable stability. We are cooperating in an exemplarily close way.

The year 2013 also marked important accomplishments for MONUSCO. We have been able to conduct more robust military operations. We have made it clear that there would be no cohabitation with armed groups — any of them. Our position is clear. We are in the Democratic Republic of the Congo not to react, but to act; we are there not to deter, but to prevent; and not only do we keep the peace, but we must also make peace a long-term reality. With the Force Intervention Brigade and our unmanned aerial vehicles, all armed groups are aware now that we have the will and means to take robust action at any time. In the coming weeks, we will finalize the review of our military deployment across eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. We will then have a more flexible Force. We need it to be more agile and ready to deploy when it is needed and where civilians are threatened. That is the Force's new paradigm. Our rules of engagement are clear. Our mandate is clear. Our determination is clear.

After the military defeat of the M-23, it now is important to implement the Nairobi declarations. There are credible reports that the military recruitment of the M-23 did not cease after the Nairobi declarations were signed. There are also credible reports of emerging M-23 activities in Ituri in north-eastern Congo. I call upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement the Nairobi declarations and expedite the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of M-23 ex-combatants. At the same time, I call upon the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda to do everything possible to prevent M-23 elements from sheltering or training troops on their territory. We should tolerate not a military re-emergence of the M-23.

In full support of the Congolese Government and to fulfil its mandated responsibilities, MONUSCO has reoriented and streamlined its priorities along three main axes: security and protection, the stabilization of conflict affected areas and the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. I will now talk along those three lines.

First, with regard to security and protection, the presence of armed groups is still strong — too strong. We need to keep the momentum. First operations against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) have cleared some positions. Further operations are being shaped. Operations can be successful, however, only if done jointly with the Congolese army. I encourage the Congolese forces to do more and to intensify the joint planning and execution of operations against the FDLR. However, remaining realistic, it will be difficult to eliminate the FDLR completely by military actions alone. Through military pressure, the FDLR must be left with no choice but to come out of the bush. Its leadership must be left with no choice other than to surrender. Its racist ideology must be left with no choice than to disappear. That is the clear message for 2014, the year we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda.

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) still terrorizes civilians in Ituri and north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. For example, on 13 December in an ADF-controlled area, 21 bodies, including those of eight babies, very young children and pregnant women, were found dead, mutilated and some beheaded. Three of the children were reportedly raped before being murdered. I visited ADF-controlled areas during the past few days. ADF continues to spread terror and horror. On 23 December, it attacked Congolese forces in Kamango and Ituri near the Ugandan border. With the help of the Force Intervention Brigade, order could be restored. Military actions against the ADF are expected soon.

In 2013, 151 children, including babies caught in cross-fire and primary school students summarily executed, were killed or maimed as a result of conflict-related violence; 206 underage girls were documented by MONUSCO as having been raped by parties to the conflict. That is only the tip of the iceberg. Their childhood is destroyed; their future is brutally burdened. We cannot and should not remain silent and passive. That is the very reason the Council sent us to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After the security incidents of 30 December in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, renewed abuses of human rights in Ituri and Katanga were recorded as having been committed both by armed groups and by national

security forces. There is zero tolerance in particular for sexual violence and violence against children in conflict. We must stand side by side with the Congolese authorities and the Congolese people to ensure that all the perpetrators are held accountable and brought to justice. I am encouraged by the fact that the amnesty law submitted to Parliament, as promised in Nairobi, will exempt the perpetrators of gross human rights violations from amnesty.

I am glad to announce that, at a Cabinet meeting held on 26 December, the Congolese Government adopted the third national plan for DDR. It also introduced an amnesty law to Parliament, paving the way for the return of ex-combatants having taken refuge abroad. However, I appeal to the Government to expedite the implementation of its DDR plan so as to allow those combatants who have laid down their arms to reintegrate into civilian life. As demonstrated in the past months, our strategy remains that of neutralizing the threat by our military presence, on the one hand, and stimulating voluntary disarmament, on the other.

In the meantime, around 8,000 combatants have surrendered. That is a good development and we encourage defections. Those who have surrendered — plus the M-23 ex-combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda — have to be reintegrated into society. The DDR process, however, is still much too slow.

Secondly, force is not the only solution. The civilian component of the Mission is stepping up. The stabilization of areas liberated from the control of armed groups is essential. Our new stabilization support plan has been presented to the Government and to all our international partners. That guiding framework brings the Government, MONUSCO, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations together. I call upon all Member States to support the implementation of the stabilization strategy by funding stabilization programmes, including the islands of stability. To that end, the islands of stability are not just a concept. They are areas in which men and women can go to their fields and to the market without fearing being robbed, raped or kidnapped. But, let us be frank — they are not yet territories in which children go to school, the police offer reliable protection, the administration fully functions and women can give birth without risks.

The islands of stability need the full redeployment of regularly paid civil servants, security and law enforcement agents, social and medical service providers in order to resume the delivery of basic public administration and services to the population. They need lasting engagement in order not only to briefly restore but to permanently consolidate State authority in those areas. The United Nations cannot and should not replace State functions. We need the firm and lasting commitment of the Congolese authorities.

Thirdly, in line with the country's national commitments, 2014 must be a year of continued reform. I welcome President Kabila's address to the nation in which he reiterated that security sector reform must remain the priority of priorities. The Congolese army and defence reform will be achieved only through a change in mindset and mentality.

Peace in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo can be durable only if the root causes of the conflict are addressed. The restitution of State authority alone is not enough. Only regional cooperation and good governance will provide the peace dividend the population is expecting.

Let me mention one important priority for 2014. Legalizing and regulating the current exploitation and trade of conflict minerals will substantially increase State revenues and will allow the Government to dispose of greater means to govern. The challenge will be to successfully introduce a system of validation of child-labour-free and conflict-free minerals in accordance with international standards. Congo's natural wealth will thereby help finance the economic and social challenges of the country. Obviously, that has to be done in partnership with the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of neighbouring States, and the private sector, and with the assistance of the international community.

As I outlined at the outset, democratic institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain fragile. On 30 December 2013, a group of attackers mounted a coordinated assault on the buildings of the national radio and television, the Ministry of Defence and the airport in Kinshasa. Simultaneous attacks occurred in Kindu and Lubumbashi. Those were clear warning shots to expedite reforms, including on the rule of law, good governance and decentralization, and to nominate the new Government as announced.

On the electoral front, the national budget, which is currently being debated in Parliament, is intended to finance the Independent National Electoral

Commission, in the amount of $260 million, of which $40 million is to come from external sources. At the end of 2014, the local elections should kick start the electoral cycle culminating with the presidential elections of 2016.

Peace and prosperity go hand in hand. Turning Goma into an economic hub could be a first step in the right direction. Upgrading its airport and improving road infrastructure will prove to be a decisive turning point for fostering an environment conducive to trade and economic cooperation. That will benefit the population of the entire region. We have submitted proposals to the donor community, and I will continue to lobby for them.

Improved and better integrated regional cooperation is a key element for successful and durable peace. It starts with cooperation among the leaders in the region. That is why I travel regularly to Kampala and Kigali. I was there just last week. I leave it to my partner in peace, Mary Robinson, to elaborate further on that.

The demonstration in Goma on 10 January, during which United Nations vehicles were hijacked by demonstrators, revealed that much still has to be done to restore confidence across borders. MONUSCO and I clearly dissociate ourselves from any racist or ethnic undertones of that demonstration.

In order to meet the challenges of 2014, MONUSCO needs to adapt. The mandate the Council gave us clearly directs us to bundle our strengths where they are most needed. In Kinshasa, a leaner Mission headquarters will provide a more efficient and focused platform for cooperation at the national level with the Congolese Government, United Nations country team members and other national and international partners.

As I address the Council, MONUSCO staff are being redeployed where they are most needed, in the areas affected by armed conflict in the east. Before July, two thirds of our substantive staff will be active in the Mission's operations in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The east needs more civil affairs officers, human rights experts, police officers, political analysts and engineers — not to win a war, but to win a lasting peace. In the western provinces, antenna offices will exercise reduced monitoring and reporting functions, ensuring MONUSCO's presence throughout the whole Democratic Republic of the Congo, while intending to transfer a large part of programmatic tasks and responsibilities to the country team.

The transfer of tasks and responsibilities is a strategic aspect of our reconfiguration. MONUSCO cannot alone make the journey to peace a comprehensive and lasting success. Together, as one United Nations, and with our national and international partners, we can.

(*spoke in French*)

It remains only for me to thank you, Sir, and the entire staff of the United Nations for the commitment they show daily, their tireless determination to work, even in trying conditions, towards lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In particular, I should like to express my great gratitude for the work and commitment of the United Nations Volunteers, who represent more than one third of the international personnel of MONUSCO, its energy and beating heart.

(*spoke in English*)

I thank the Council once again for its continued support.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Kobler for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mrs. Robinson.

Mrs. Robinson: May I begin by wishing the Security Council a very happy and fruitful new year. May I also join in welcoming the new members of the Council.

I am honoured to address the Council today from Kinshasa, where I am holding meetings with the senior leadership of the country with the view to advancing the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. I am meeting with President Kabila later this afternoon, so I may indeed have to slip away a little early from this meeting. I apologize for that but trust that the Council will understand.

My last briefing to the Council, on 11 December 2013, took place in the aftermath of the military defeat of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23) and preceded the successful conclusion of the Kampala process, with the signing by President Museveni and President Joyce Banda, in Kampala, which I had predicted would happen on 12 December.

The reality today is that the positive atmosphere that then prevailed has vanished, as Martin Kobler

has outlined. The region is going through a period of renewed turbulence. On 25 December, the Allied Democratic Forces rebel group attacked the town of Kamango, an attack during which more than 50 people were killed. On 30 December, the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo repelled a series of coordinated attacks in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi and Kindu, leading to the death of more than 100 people. My colleague has outlined that in more detail. In the meantime, as Council members will be aware, the crisis has continued in Central African Republic and fighting erupted in South Sudan between the Government forces and the rebels loyal to former Vice-President Riek Machar.

As we approach the first anniversary of its signing, and despite the fragility of the situation in the region, the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework remains our best hope for achieving sustainable peace, security, cooperation and development in the Great Lakes region. However, it is essential that the pace of its implementation be increased in order to maximize its impact.

In the past year, the signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework achieved some progress in putting instruments and tools in place for its implementation. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the national oversight mechanism, established by President Kabila to oversee the implementation of the national commitments, is functioning and requires further strengthening. In addition, a national dialogue involving the majority of political parties was held and a monitoring committee, co-chaired by the Presidents of the two chambers of the National Assembly, was put in place to follow up on the implementation of its outcome. Despite the military defeat of the M-23, the Kampala process between the Government and the M-23 rebel groups reached a political conclusion, which was vital to securing a good future.

At the regional level, the Technical Support Committee was established in May. It worked to develop regional benchmarks, which were adopted by the Heads of State during the second meeting of regional oversight mechanism in September in New York. On 8 and 9 January, the Technical Support Committee concluded the formulation of an action plan, including 15 priority activities, which will be submitted for adoption to the next meeting of the regional oversight mechanism, scheduled for 30 January in Addis Ababa, during the African Union Summit.

The development of the plan of action is structured around the seven regional commitments and the associated benchmarks endorsed by the regional oversight mechanism in September 2013. For each commitment and under each regional benchmark, there is a matrix that includes a list of activities to be undertaken prior to September 2014. Clearly, ownership will be taken of the process, there is a commitment to action and there is a willingness to be monitored and made accountable for that action, which I believe is solid progress.

While all the achievements that I have just mentioned are important steps, it is now essential that the signatories focus strictly on the implementation of national and regional commitments in order to generate the required peace dividends and effect the promised changes in the Great Lakes region.

At the national level, efforts to reform the security sector should be significantly increased and accelerated. This would be essential for the expansion of State authority, particularly in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Another key priority is, as Martin Kobler has said, the swift implementation of an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme to disarm and reintegrate the former combatants of the M-23, including those who are in Uganda and Rwanda, and all the other fighters who have voluntarily surrendered. A prolonged presence of those ex-combatants in cantonment areas without reintegration could persuade some of them to return to an armed group, so time is of the essence.

Should the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo adopt the amnesty law, as is profoundly hoped, the urgency to deal with the DDR caseloads would become more pressing. Furthermore, it would be crucial for the Independent National Electoral Commission to deliver timely and credible local elections at the end of this year. I had a good meeting with Abbot Apollinaire Malu Malu Muholongu and members of the Commission this morning, in which I encouraged more clarity on the electoral timetable and the budgetary provisions.

While these commitments are to be implemented under the leadership and ownership of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is clear that the process would require the support of donors who have already expressed their readiness to engage the authorities. During my current visit to the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, I have encouraged the Government to designate as early as possible an interlocutor to interact and work with the international partners, including with a view to developing a mutual accountability mechanism.

I have also encouraged the Government to align the roles and responsibilities of the monitoring committee on national consultations with that of the national oversight mechanism to create greater coherence between those structures and avoid possible duplication of efforts. Furthermore, I insisted on the need to closely incorporate civil society into the implementation process of the national commitments, particularly by utilizing the existing consultative mechanism provided as part of the national oversight mechanism.

At the regional level, signatory countries must also begin implementing their commitments. It is now the moment to work towards achieving further economic integration, including by agreeing to implement cross-border economic initiatives, which would benefit the entire region. The World Bank has agreed to fund several regional projects in support of such efforts. In this regard, I also plan to organize, together with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), a regional private sector investment forum in the first half of 2014. The forum will seek to build on ongoing initiatives to increase opportunities for investment and job creation in the Great Lakes region.

Concrete confidence-building steps will have to be taken by the countries of the region, in particular by making sure that none are harbouring individuals responsible for grave human rights violations, giving any kind of support or assistance to armed groups or interfering in the affairs of a neighbouring country. As my partner in peace Martin Kobler has indicated, there is worrying evidence that these commitments are not yet being fully implemented by Rwanda and Uganda.

Increased dialogue among the leaders of the region also needs take place. In this regard, it is my intention to help establish a mediated dialogue among relevant Governments and stakeholders through which some of the difficult issues can be discussed. It is the concrete implementation of national commitments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and commitments at the regional level that would lead to sustainable peace in the region, and this cannot wait any longer.

Following the conclusion of my visit in Kinshasa, I will travel to Luanda tomorrow morning to attend the summit of Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. While there, I will have an opportunity to brief the ICGLR member States, most of which are signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, on the plan of action that they would be asked to adopt in a couple of weeks time at regional oversight mechanism meeting in Addis Ababa. I will reiterate to the ministers and Heads of State the message that I have conveyed to the Council today — it is time to tackle the tough decisions that would actually make a difference.

In just over two weeks, the regional oversight mechanism will meet for the third time. The meeting will take place on 30 January in Addis Ababa, on the margins of the African Union Summit. The Heads of State are expected to review and adopt the plan of action for the implementation of the regional commitments. They are also expected to welcome Kenya and the Sudan as new signatories to the Framework. Finally, they will discuss my proposal to hold a private sector investment forum for the Great Lakes region in the first half of the year.

On the margins of the Summit, I will launch the Great Lakes women's platform. The launch is planned to take place at the ministerial segment of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. With the platform, I hope to help empower women in the region to ensure effective monitoring and advocacy of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework — at both the regional level and that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo — and the implementation of regional and national plans of action, under resolution 1325 (2000), to combat violence against women, support women affected by violence, and ensure women's livelihoods, development and access to clean energy at the local level.

Let me conclude by reiterating that the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region is at an important juncture. Almost one year after it was signed, it continues to hold promise for peace and stability in the region. However, what is most important for meaningful progress is the immediate implementation of all commitments at the national and regional levels in order to bring about concrete peace dividends and lasting improvements in the lives of the people of the region. I look to the members of the Security Council to continue their strong support to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and their

encouragement to all signatories to fully implement their commitments.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mrs. Robinson for her briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7095

Security Council

Sixty-ninth year

Provisional

7095th meeting

Thursday, 16 January 2014, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Hmoud	(Jordan)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Araud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Oh Joon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2014/1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

14-20779 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2014/1)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Albert Koenders, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/1, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.

I now give the floor to Mr. Koenders.

Mr. Koenders (*spoke in French*): It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to address the Security Council today. The third report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali, which is before the Council (S/2014/1), follows up on resolution 2100 (2013), of 25 April 2013, which established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Today, I wish to give members an overview of the political and security situation in Mali, the progress made since my briefing last October (see S/PV.7043) and the challenges that lie ahead.

At the outset, allow me to convey to you, Mr. President, and to members of the Council my best wishes for the new year. I also take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the Security Council and to wish them every success in their deliberations.

The year that has just ended was decisive for the Malian people. Despite the challenges, they demonstrated their will and determination to move forward after the serious and multifaceted crisis that the country experienced in 2012. In that way, it was possible to organize free and transparent presidential and legislative elections throughout the country, enabling Mali to reaffirm its territorial integrity and a return to constitutional order. The country's President, His Excellency Mr. Boubacar Keita, clearly set out the priorities for the stabilization and economic rebuilding of the country. In that regard, he gave priority to national reconciliation, the fight against impunity and corruption, security sector reform and the strengthening of institutional capacities and development, in particular in the northern regions.

In the coming months, therefore, Mali will have to take advantate of this unique opportunity, with the support of the international community, in order to tackle the complex root causes of the multiple crises that the country has experienced. It must lay down a lasting basis for peace and reconciliation and again become a stable partner for guaranteed regional security. That requires that the inclusive talks with the communities of the north and the signatories to the preliminary agreement begin without further delay; that the road map and a framework agreement that includes the United Nations and the international community be established; that the State re-establish itself and that basic services operate again across the country; and that security sector reform and the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration take place. All those aspects are very closely linked and require the sustained attention of the Security Council. Progress on each of those elements is necessary in order to succeed in a regional context that remains, I have to say, fragile and perilous. The time has come to make headway on that composite agenda, given that delays could jeopardize the achievements that have been realized.

With respect to the implementation of the preliminary agreement of 18 June 2013, some confidence-building measures have already been initiated to bring about reconciliation. On the one hand, the Government organized a series of inclusive consultations, such as the States-General on the decentralization and the national conferences on the north. Regional conferences were also conducted in Gao. Key steps on the reinstatement of national sovereignty were taken, in particular the exchange of prisoners and the vacating of the governorate building and the radio station in Kidal, which was accepted by the signatory parties of the preliminary agreement.

We would also welcome the progress made by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and the Mixed Technical Commission on Security in implementing the provisions of the preliminary agreement. However, with the elapse of the 60-day time frame before the start of inclusive talks, it is important that signatory parties to the agreement come to terms as quickly as possible on the principles, the conditions and the format of a process of inclusive talks that would allow for all the political and security aspects to be addressed, as provided for by article 21 of the preliminary agreement and paragraph 4 of resolution 2100 (2013). In the same context, the cantonment process should be sped up in order to get a genuine process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) under way.

MINUSMA is currently establishing a coordination group to support all those processes and their planning and to guarantee the consistency and coordination of the contributions of international partners in the framework of supporting the processes of cantonment, DDR and SSR in Mali. In more general terms, we would urge the Government to set up as quickly as possible a cooperation framework in line with the provisions of resolution 2100 (2013) and the preliminary agreement in order to support dialogue and negotiations. MINUSMA, together with the international community, will help the Government along those lines.

Despite the considerable efforts undertaken by Mali and MINUSMA in the areas of defence and security, which have allowed for a gradual return of the Administration and certain populations in the north, I would nevertheless underscore that the security situation remains volatile. The difficulty of the situation should not be underestimated. We firmly condemn the resurgence of terrorist attacks. We would recall that such attacks, perpetrated mainly in the Kidal region, led to several deaths and injuries among the civilian population and the Malian army. In addition, four peacekeepers and two French journalists lost their lives there. We reiterate our condolences to the bereaved families, and in particular to the Governments of Senegal and Chad, which are the troop-contributing countries concerned.

The terrorist threat has always been at the core of our concerns. An upsurge in terrorist activities confirms those concerns, which we have consistently shared with the Security Council. An effective stabilization of the northern regions requires cooperation both politically and on the security front, with the contribution of MINUSMA and the national and international partners involved.

(*spoke in English*)

MINUSMA presently counts with 5,488 military personnel out of the projected 11,200, 71 individual police officers out of the projected 320, and 883 formed police unit elements out of the projected 1,120. The security challenges and the expectations of the population are enormous. It is therefore essential that the international community continue to back without delay efforts to accelerate the generation and deployment of the remaining MINUSMA units in the north of the country. The Security Council's support and that of the Member States to secure the necessary enablers and force multipliers in a timely fashion is promising and remains essential as we carry out the strong mandate the Council has entrusted us with to contribute to a secure environment for the people of Mali.

Considerable progress has been made on the humanitarian front, and we would like to commend the leadership and efforts of the Government of Mali in strengthening its capacity to support humanitarian operations. More than 145,000 children have been able to return to reopened schools in Gao and Timbuktu. Many local health-care centres in the northern regions have been rehabilitated, more than 1 million people have benefitted from access to drinking water and more than 217,000 acutely malnourished children have benefitted from life-saving care programmes provided by the Malian Government and humanitarian actors.

Yet it is important to underline that very significant and daunting challenges remain for 2014. Almost half a million people remain displaced within Mali and in neighbouring countries, and at least 800,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance. Another 2.4 million people remain moderately food insecure, and their situation is at risk of worsening during the upcoming lean season. To date, the 2013 consolidated appeal for Mali has received only 55 per cent of the amount required. I mention that because we simply must do better in 2014, as the severe situation also has a direct impact on the chances for peace in Mali.

Let us not forget that during the crisis, families in the south provided shelter to countless relatives from the north who were fleeing the conflict. While we focus our efforts on supporting the Government

in addressing immediate challenges in the north, it is important to bear in mind that the crisis has affected all Malians, including those living in the southern part of the country, and they should be supported accordingly.

As the country gradually moves towards greater institutional stability and in spite of the security challenges, the Government should quickly implement the priorities defined by President Keita. The international community stands ready to lend its support. For its part, MINUSMA will continue to carry out important work in the areas of human rights and other protection activities, including combating sexual violence. Those tasks constitute a centrepiece of the overall mandate to protect civilians that the Security Council has given us.

Meanwhile, it is imperative for the Malian authorities and the international community to fulfil the mutual commitments undertaken during the high-level donors conference for the development of Mali held in Brussels on 15 May 2013, which were reiterated in Bamako on 7 November. The follow-up donors conference planned to take place next month in Brussels will be an important milestone for Mali. We must ensure that the international community fulfils its pledges. At the same time, it is obviously not about providing a blank check. The crisis that Mali encountered in 2012 was too serious for us all to continue to do business as usual.

We need greater alignment of foreign aid with Malian priorities in the context of even stronger Malian leadership, and it should be related to the start of inclusive talks. That could be done by defining a framework of mutual accountability, mutual responsibility, enhanced transparency and collective commitment to results. People in both the south and north of the country need to feel that things are changing and see a peace dividend and visible improvements in their daily lives, such as education for their children, greater access to health care, water and electricity.

To date, MINUSMA has approved 13 quick-impact projects in Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu, for a total amount of more than half a million dollars. We have also initiated a number of projects with the Trust Fund for Peace and Security in Mali, including the electrification of Kidal and the cantonment of armed group elements. The needs are great and the resources limited. I am extremely thankful for the continuing support of the international community in that respect.

The challenges facing the Sahel region are numerous and cannot be tackled in isolation. The joint regional visit by the Secretary-General, the African Union Chairperson, the European Union Commissioner for Development and Presidents of the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank in early November was a positive step in that direction. The 5 November 2013 meeting hosted by the Government of Mali provided an opportunity to hear the concerns and priorities of the countries of the region themselves and enhance coordination, which is also necessary, among regional and international partners, including the international financial institutions.

The journey to stability is long and at times difficult. I have been in Mali now for six months and, everywhere I turn, I am reminded of the rich cultural history of its people. I can confidently say that there are no obstacles that the Malians cannot overcome. However, it requires patience and strong determination.

Mali is at a crossroads, and the international community should continue to actively support ongoing national efforts to steer the country in the right direction and avoid relapsing into the old habits that gave rise to the unprecedented crisis over a year ago. In that sense, the real work in Mali is only just starting. That work remains fraught with risks and takes place in a volatile regional setting.

I would like to thank the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union and other international partners for their commitment to addressing the Malian situation and for their support to MINUSMA. Our common efforts can make an important difference.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Koenders for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Kassé (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Allow me, first of all, to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on the accession of your country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. At the same time, I would like to express our great appreciation for the outstanding work undertaken by the delegation of France during its presidency of the Council in December 2013. We would also like to wish every success to the new members of the Security Council.

Allow me also to wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Mali, a very happy new year to the members of the Council, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and United Nations peacekeepers deployed in different theatres of operation, who give their lives fighting for a better world — one that is free of conflict, war, terrorism, trafficking in drugs and human beings and so on.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the gratitude of the highest Malian authorities to French President François Hollande for his courageous decision to launch Operation Serval on 11 January 2013 to halt the spread of jihadist groups towards the centre and south of Mali.

This is also the time to pay a heartfelt tribute to the African forces, in particular those from Chad and Mali, who, alongside the French army, freed the largest cities of the north of my country.

On 16 October 2013, exactly three months ago, the Security Council considered the second report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2013/582), pursuant to the relevant provisions of resolution 2100 (2013) (see S/PV.7043)Since then, significant advances have been made on the political and security fronts and in the areas of restoring State authority, protecting human rights, developing humanitarian activities, carrying out the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and international coordination.

At the political level, we note the conclusion of the electoral process with the holding of presidential and legislative elections, which were recognized as being transparent and credible both by all political players in Mali and by the international community, including the Security Council.

In its ongoing search for peace, the Government, under the authority of President Boubacar Keita, has undertaken a series of efforts aimed at decentralization, national reconciliation, the development of the regions of the north and good governance, with the end goal of, iter alia, promoting respect for human rights and combattng corruption and impunity. Therefore, in the context of strengthening decentralization and the power of local authorities, the Government recruited more than 10,000 teachers and 2,400 health-care workers last year to fill in human resource gaps in those two vital sectors.

As part of that initiative, the Government organized a national forum on decentralization from 21 to 23 October 2013. Those meetings were aimed at establishing institutional mechanisms to empower decentralized communities. They allowed all stakeholders to take stock of the achievements and shortcomings of our experience and to propose new ways to achieve significant progress in that area.

Along the same lines, the President instructed the Government to organize a national conference on the north to discuss, debate and exchange views on all issues of concern for the Malian nation. That conference took place from 1 to 3 November 2013, and was aimed at establishing a foundation to change attitudes and encourage behaviour essential to the emergence of a new future for the country that is reconciled with its history and its positive traditional values, forward-looking and determined to create a new society based on creative work.

With the overwhelming participation of all sectors of our nation, the national conference on the north helped to build trust between the Malian people and engage in dialogue armed groups and all the other actors in the north who have their own views with regard to their immediate environment. The recommendations made to address the concerns of affected populations will be taken into account in the implementation of development projects in the northern regions of Mali.

In that connection, the Government has drawn up and adopted with MINUSMA elements of a road map out of the crisis, based on the following guidelines: first, convening by the end of January 2014 meetings of the active forces of the northern regions on the issues related to ending the crisis; secondly, holding a meeting of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the agreement of 18 June 2013; and, thirdly, initiating inclusive peace talks in the very near future. Those talks will be preceded by three preparatory meetings, namely, a workshop on cantonment, a symposium on lessons learned from preceding agreements and a seminar with technical and financial partners on the accelerated development plan for the northern regions.

The Government of Mali is strongly committed to restoring an environment conducive to the peaceful cohabitation of the people of the northern and the southern regions. In that context, a ministerial department dedicated entirely to national reconciliation and the development of the northern regions was set

up to address, among other things, the economic and human dimensions of the issues inherent to the three northern regions.

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/1), the security conditions in the north deteriorated considerably from 30 September to 21 December 2013. A series of asymmetric attacks perpetrated by criminal gangs against civilian populations, the Malian armed forces and MINUSMA troops suffice to show that terrorist groups are reorganizing themselves. Faced with the threat that the progressive reduction of the Operation Serval force could exacerbate that situation, it is crucial that MINUSMA be provided with adequate resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate in line with the strategic objectives of the Government of Mali, whose centrepiece is the immediate re-establishment of the authority of the Malian State throughout its territory, including in the Kidal region.

With regard to the incidents in Kidal on 28 November 2013, when the Prime Minister and his delegation were prevented from going there by individuals from the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad, the report states that the Malian armed forces opened fire on demonstrators, injuring four of them. In response, I would like to point out, as was done by the Minister for Reconciliation and Development of the North of the Republic of Mali, bearing the message of the President to the Secretary-General on 5 December 2013, that this information does not reflect reality because the MINUSMA elements who were the closest to the scene of the incident were actually 400 metres away, which does not allow them to provide an objective testimony. Therefore, they are not able to say who opened fire on the crowd, without knowing the results of the ballistic analysis ordered by the Government.

The members of the Security Council, having reaffirmed in resolution 2100 (2013), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, their commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, should not accept today that Kidal remain a regional safe haven for terrorism, drug traffickers and kidnappers. Armed groups must lay down their weapons, not associate with terrorists and participate in the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and inclusive dialogue.

In terms of international coordination, my delegation agreed with what is stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the need to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach to meet the challenges of the Sahel. Such an approach was reaffirmed in Bamako on 5 November 2013, at the first ministerial meeting on the establishment of a coordinating platform for the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. On that occasion, the ministers of the Sahel agreed to, among other things, adopt common priorities for regional initiatives in the Sahel and monitor progress, including through coordinated support from the international community. My country, which holds the rotating presidency of the coordinating platform for the next two years, is already hard at work to diligently implement the recommendations of the Bamako meeting.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the launch of Operation Serval, I should lie to pay tribute to the memory of the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism and "narco-jihadism".

On behalf of President Keita, I should like to thank the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the International Organization of la Francophonie and our bilateral partners. Our thanks also go to the new countries contributing troops and equipment to MINUSMA. My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General before us and Mali is honoured to welcome in the coming days the Security Council mission.

I cannot conclude without asking the Security Council, on behalf of my Government, to call on Member States, perhaps through a presidential statement, to support the strengthening of MINUSMA with appropriate means and to encourage them to uphold their commitments made in Brussels in May 2013.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): Allow me convey to you, Sir, my delegation's warm congratulations upon your country's accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I would also like to congratulate the other non-permanent members who will serve on the Council in 2014 and 2015. I also take this opportunity to convey to the Council members our best wishes for the new year.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 15 member States of the Economic Community of West

African States (ECOWAS). I would like to thank the Secretary-General to report on the situation in Mali (S/2014/1) dated 2 January, which is before the Council today.

I would also like to congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bert Koenders, for his excellent briefing of the situation in Mali, as well as Ambassador Sékou Kassé, Permanent Representative of Mali.

Since the election of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and following the recent transparent and well-organized elections, we can say that normal constitutional order has been re-established in Mali fully and irreversibly. However, those gains must be strengthened and consolidated by rapid progress, in particular on the security, political, humanitarian and human rights fronts, and above all through the continued commitment of the international community to sustainable solutions in Mali.

On the security front, the situation remained relatively calm but volatile across the entire country and extremely fragile and worrying in the Kidal region, where tensions were high, as illustrated most clearly by the double murder of French journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon.

The situation in the north of the country is characterized by asymmetric warfare in the form of sporadic jihadist attacks against Malian armed forces and the international forces of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Operation Serval.

Two major facts illustrate the insecurity in northern Mali, namely the jihadist attack on 23 October 2013, at Tessalit by unidentified armed assailants against Chadian peacekeeping troops of MINUSMA, and the suicide car bomb attack on 14 December 2013, against the Malian Solidarity Bank building. Two Chadian peacekeepers and two Senegalese soldiers were killed in Tessalit and Kidal, respectively.

Against that backdrop, the Malian Government officially launched on 2 December the security sector reform and set up 11 working groups to develop a comprehensive strategy. The ECOWAS Commission, through the Special Representation in Mali, has been asked to nominate a representative to the working group, who will have an active role throughout that process.

On the political front, the developments included the holding of talks in the north and the legislative elections. With regard to the talks in the north, it must be recalled that, pursuant to the provisions of the preliminary agreement on the presidential elections and on inclusive dialogue on peace in Mali, dated 18 June 2013, the talks in the north were held on 1, 2 and 3 November 2013, in Bamako. Their aim was to set out and share the concerns and expectations of the Malian people and to seek lasting, fair and inclusive peace. Thereby, they produced a series of recommendations, whose implementation will provide for decentralization and for the harmonious development of the regions of Mali.

Furthermore, a regional reconciliation forum was held in Gao from 30 November to 2 December 2013. The forum allowed for reconciliation in the north and brought together more than 500 representatives — from the second-level administrative units of Ansongo, Bourem, Gao and Ménaka — including religious leaders, women, young people and members of civil society organizations. This forum implements the Government dialogue and reconciliation policy with the aim of easing inter-community tensions.

With regard to the legislative elections, following on from what the Malian Ambassador said, ECOWAS notes that the electoral campaigns went calmly without incident and that the first two rounds of elections were held across Mali as planned on 24 November and 15 December, including in Kidal. There was a lower turn-out for those than for the presidential elections. Out of the 147 seats, the party of President Keita and his allies won an absolute majority in the National Assembly.

ECOWAS, through its Special Representative, has provided continuous assistance to the Government of Mali in the preparation and organization of the elections. Overall, it deployed a 150 person-strong observation mission to the first and second round elections. The observers concluded that the legislative elections of 24 November and 15 December, 2013, showed significant progress in relation to the presidential elections. They were held in acceptable conditions of freedom and transparency.

On the humanitarian front, according to a report dated 27 November 2013, from the Movement of Populations Commission, which comprises several international organizations, including the International

Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme and UNICEF, the number of displaced persons had fallen since October 2013. Such a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons was found throughout the country, but was more concentrated in the regions of the far north. However, an increase was observed in the towns surrounding Kidal, probably due to the insecurity and uncertainty linked to the particular situation in that Kidal. With regard to refugees, returns are being stepped up and only 185,000 refugees remain in neighbouring countries.

For its part, ECOWAS is fully committed to assisting Mali through various humanitarian activities. In that context, working with OCHA last November, ECOWAS conducted predeployment training for 20 humanitarian observers, followed, on 19 December, by a disbursement of donations totalling $500,0000 to Malian authorities for the local purchase of provisions to relieve the suffering of the population.

With regard to human rights, the situation is improving progressively throughout the country thanks to the determination of the new Malian authorities, who decided to combat violations of human rights and fight impunity. In recent weeks, that was evident in the arrest and indictment of General Amadou Haya Sanogo and some of his former comrades in the so-called "red berets" case. With regard to the fight against corruption, four judges and a clerk were arrested on Tuesday, 10 December and placed in custody.

The extraordinary progress made by Mali under the leadership of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita should be supported by the continued engagement of the international community. In that context, the sixth meeting of the international support and monitoring group on the situation in Mali was held, on 2 November 2013. The meeting gave participants an opportunity to take note of the latest positive developments in the political situation in Mali since 1 July 2013. Participants also urged the international community to continue to provide technical expertise, assistance and financial and material support to Mali so that the country could regain its place in the comity of nations. The United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the ECOWAS strategy, which encompasses a holistic approach to security, the humanitarian dimension and development challenges in the region, were also presented at that meeting.

In conclusion, we should also welcome the holding in Bamako, on 5 November 2013, of the first ministerial meeting on the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, which aimed at establishing a coordination platform on the Sahel. The meeting, which benefited in particular from the participation of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, African Union Commission Chairperson Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and the heads of international financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Union, was an opportunity to bring together donors and to take stock ofthe funding pledges made and the priorities identified in the Sahel region and their implementation as set out in the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

It was clearly re-emphasized at that important meeting that there is an intrinsic link between peace, security and development and that there is a need to set up projects centred around the development of the Sahel in order to contain threats to peace and security, such as poverty and insecurity, in all their forms. The people of Mali and the Sahel region are anxious to see the realization of those projects.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speaker. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.